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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Agenda item 3

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of its Platform for Action,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 11 (II) of 21 June 1946 and 48 (IV) of 29 March 1947, by which the Council established the Commission on the Status of Women and defined its terms of reference, and 1987/22 of 26 May 1987, by which the Council expanded the mandate of the Commission,

Taking into account agreed conclusions 1995/1, approved by the Council on 28 July 1995, 1/ as well as General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995, on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, in which the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council to review and strengthen the mandate of the Commission,

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1/ A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22.

I

Framework for the functioning of the Commission

Recalling that the Assembly, in resolution 50/203, decided that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

Convinced that the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women should be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to the advancement of women within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields, as well as the overall responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

1. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall have a catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes;

2. Decides that the inter-agency committee on the advancement and empowerment of women, once established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, shall inform the Commission and the Economic and Social Council of the progress of its work, for the purpose of system-wide coordination, and that a gender perspective shall also be fully integrated in the work of all thematic task forces established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

2 bis. [The United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women have, in accordance with their respective mandates, a specific role to play in the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Platform for Action];

2 ter. [Urges the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to include in its reports to the General Assembly information on the implementation of the strategic objectives of the Platform for Action related to the provisions of the Convention, pursuant to paragraph 36 of General Assembly resolution 50/203];

3. Decides, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the advancement of women, that such organizations should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation process related to the Conference to the maximum extent possible, and requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to ensure full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and dissemination of information;

3 bis. [Recognizing the valuable contribution of non-governmental organizations to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Council and its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations will decide to review the applications of those non-governmental organizations under Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) as expeditiously as possible and that prior to the forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Council will decide on the participation of those non-governmental organizations accredited to the Conference in Conference follow-up and in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, without prejudice to the work of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations];

II

Terms of reference

1. Confirms the existing mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women as set out in its resolutions 11 (II) of 21 June 1946, 48 (IV) of 29 March 1947 and 1987/22 of 26 May 1987, bearing in mind that the Platform for Action builds upon the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

2. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall assist the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at all levels, and shall advise the Council thereon;

3. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall continue to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities and develop further its catalytic role in this regard in other areas;

4. Decides further that the Commission on the Status of Women shall identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needs to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination function;

5. Decides that the Commission shall identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that require urgent consideration and make substantive recommendations thereon;

6. Decides that the Commission shall maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Platform for Action;

III

Documentation

1. Requests that all United Nations documentation be kept concise, clear, analytical and timely with a focus on relevant issues and in accordance with Council resolution 1987/24 of 26 May 1987 and Council agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995; that reports contain recommendations for action and indicate

the actors; that reports be available in all official languages, in accordance with the rules of the United Nations; and that other methods of reporting, such as oral reports, also be explored;

2. Requests that the relevant reports of the meetings of inter-agency mechanisms established by the Secretary-General be transmitted for information to the Commission to ensure coordination, collaboration and coherence in the implementation of the Platform for Action;

3. Decides that requests for reports of the Secretary-General should be limited to the minimum strictly necessary and that the Secretariat should use information and data already provided by Governments to the maximum extent possible, avoiding duplication of requests to Governments for such information;

4. Decides further that voluntary submission of national information, for example national action plans or national reports by Governments, should be encouraged;

5. Requests that the following reports be prepared under agenda item 3 (Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women),* bearing in mind the need to promote integrated reporting:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and the progress achieved in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system (annually);

(b) Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues before the Commission in accordance with the multi-year work programme, including, as far as possible, progress made in national implementation, based on available existing data and statistics (annually);

(c) Report on emerging issues under agenda item 3 (b),* as appropriate, at the request of the Commission or its Bureau;

(d) Synthesized report on implementation plans of Governments and the United Nations system, based, inter alia, on national action plans and any other sources of information already available in the United Nations system (in 1998);

(e) Mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term plan (in 1998);

(f) Report on the implementation of the Platform for Action, on the basis of national reports, taking into account the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (in 2000);

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* See sect. IV, para. 3 below.

IV

Work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. Adopts a multi-year work programme for a focused and thematic approach, culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women; the work programme, inter alia, will provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Platform for Action and will be in line with the coordinated follow-up to conferences;

2. Decides that the work of the Commission in relation to the programme of work shall be closely related to the relevant provisions of the Platform for Action, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Platform for Action;

3. Decides that the agenda for the Commission shall consist of the following:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women:

(a) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-first session.

4. Decides, in the light of the need for a focused and thematic multi-year work programme on the critical areas of concern and bearing in mind that the critical areas of concern are interrelated and interdependent, on the following calendar:

1997	Education and training of women (Platform for Action, chapter IV.B)
	Women and the economy (Platform for Action, chapter IV.F)
	Women in power and decision-making (Platform for Action, chapter IV.G)
	Women and the environment (Platform for Action, chapter IV.K)
1998	Violence against women (Platform for Action, chapter IV.D)
	Women and armed conflict (Platform for Action, chapter IV.E)
	Human rights of women (Platform for Action, chapter IV.I)
	The girl child (Platform for Action, chapter IV.L)
1999	Women and health (Platform for Action, chapter IV.C)
	Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women (Platform for Action, chapter IV.H)
	Initiation of the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action
2000	Comprehensive quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action
	Emerging issues

V

Regional [dimension]

Recalling the important role played by regional preparatory conferences in the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women and that plans and programmes of action were adopted that served as essential inputs to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

1. Recommends that the regional follow-up and monitoring of the regional platforms and programmes of action should be utilized as inputs for the review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

2. Recommends further that the Council [should] consider how best to integrate the inputs of regional commissions into the overall monitoring and follow-up to the Platform for Action.